

North Dallas Gazette

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Plano Dealership & Jaguar File Opposing Lawsuits

(NDG Wire) One of the nation's top performing Jaguar dealerships has asked a court to settle a dispute with Jaguar Land Rover over disputed manufacturer charges for the Plano, Texas, dealership.

Attorneys from the Dallas law firm of Shackelford, Melton & McKin-

ley, who represent Millennium Jaguar of Texas Inc., dba Millennium Motor Cars, filed suit last month against Jaguar Land Rover North America LLC and three of the dealership's former employees. The Millennium lawsuit claims the former employees concealed information and

misstated performance statistics. The employees involved were either terminated or resigned.

Jaguar Land Rover ordered a full audit of Millennium's warranty and sales-incentive records and subsequently made demands that Millennium pay Jaguar Land Rover

more than \$600,000.

Following Millennium's internal investigation of Jaguar Land Rover's claims, they made a good faith payment of nearly \$100,000 related to paperwork errors, along with a request for further investigation into the re-

See JAGUAR, Page 11

Consumer Alert Issued by FBI Online Rental Ads Could be Phony

(NDG Wire) You can't believe your good fortune - you've found a rental home in a good area through a Craigslist classified ad at an unbelievably low rate. The landlord had to travel to Nigeria, and asked you to wire him two months worth of rent. But when you arrive at the home,

ready to move in, there's one small problem - the house is not for rent and its owners know nothing about your agreement.

This is the latest scam being perpetrated by Nigerian criminals, and has been seen in a number of U.S. states. But it's not a new scam, just a variation

of an old one. The so called 419 scheme - named after the Nigerian penal code section under which this particular kind of fraud is prosecuted - has been around since the early 1980s. The common thread is the victims are solicited by Nigerian criminals to transfer money out of the



See RENTAL Page 12

Plano Music Series Colors Fall With Latin Jazz, Southern Rock

(NDG Wire) Plano's Concerts in the Park will head musically south of the Mason/Dixon line this Fall with the sounds of Latin Jazz and Southern Rock in the bowl at the Amphitheater at Oak Point Park in September and October. Once the best kept secret in North Texas, Plano's Concerts in the Park

were such a hit last Spring that the series has been expanded to include concerts September 12 (Latin Jazz Night) and October 3, 2009 (Southern Rock Night). The concerts are presented by Plano Stages and tickets are available at <http://plano.stages.tix.com>.

Talented North Texas

guitarist Russ Hewitt will lead off Latin Jazz Night on September 12 at 8 pm with infectious "rumba flamenco" rhythms. Hewitt, a fixture on the Dallas music scene for many years, has gained new popularity with an intoxicating blend of latin, jazz and flamenco styles. To hear more about

and by Russ, visit www.russhe Wittmusic.com.

Headlining the evening will be legendary Austin dance band "Beto and the Fairlanes." Led by jazz pianist Robert "Beto" Skiles, a native Texan with bilingual roots in San Antonio, Beto

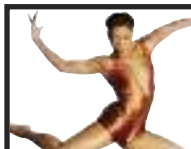
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SPOTLIGHT

Dating Solutions Available at the Click of the Mouse for Single African Americans



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Dallas Black Dance Theatre Announces 2009-2010 Season of TranscendANCE

For more information see pg. 10
www.northdallasgazette.com

COMMENTARY

Who Will Give Voice to the Voiceless?

BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX

(NNPA) Senator Edward M. Kennedy was a voice for the voiceless. He was passionate about health care, about children, about education. He understood poverty and often spoke of it. The fact that he touched so many lives was evidenced by the thousands that lined the streets of Boston simply to watch his casket drive by, or the lines that snaked toward his gravesite at Arlington Cemetery just a day after he

was buried. It begs a cliché to say that he will be missed. More importantly, who in the senate will give voice to the voiceless?

Though Senator Kennedy was tremendously popular among democrats and republicans, his kind of liberalism was rare. Too often, now, when people speak of social programs, they are prepared to blame the poor, at least somewhat, for their plight. You hear

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People In The News...



Tamara Nichole Harris



Nina Vaca



Stephen Morris

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Tamara Nichole Harris

Tamara (Tammy) Nichole Harris is a talented lyricist and vocalist from Chicago, Illinois, and is also earning her cap as a producer. Harris's music is a smooth blend of traditional R&B soul fused with elements of Jazz & Funk. Her style has been described by many as reminiscent of the timing of Phyllis Hyman, the vibrato of Stephanie Mills and Randy Crawford, a waver like Denise Williams and the class of Nancy Wilson.

Harris's debut album,

Can't Keep A Good Woman Down, released in 2003 is a mix of funky grooves, attitude with raw emotions, yet feminine in every sense of the word. The debut single, *Only To You*, is a heart-felt ballad of a woman who previously encountered unhappy love situations, but has finally found the person she believes is the key. *Only To You* encompasses the essence of love. The title track, *Can't Keep A Good Woman Down*, is a testament to the strength of women who endure various



obstacles on a daily basis. Harris co-wrote and co-

produced all tunes on this album. *Can't Keep A Good Woman Down* offers the listener so much from start to finish.

Her sophomore project, *Natural Vibe*, offers a deeper listen into the artistry of her music. This album features remixes of the title song and

Come Over by The Remix King, Grammy award win-

ning Maurice Joshua and Rob Diggy (whose credits include the Grammy winning re-mix of *Crazy in Love* for Beyonce). All songs on this project are live band songs with talents lent by some of Chicago's hottest, most sought after and most talented musicians. The title song is a collaboration with William Jackson out of Texas and Clarence Ferguson out of New York.

Harris received an honorable mention in the 2002 & 2003 John Lennon Songwriting Contest, for her songs *I'm Through*; *I'm Done* and *Only To You* re-

spectively. Additionally, *Only To You*, *Illusion of Love*, *No Other Love*, and *Love Your Neighbor* reached the top ten for Illinois, the Midwest and Top Female Vocal Production with www.broadjam.com. *Illusion of Love* also reached the aforementioned categories as well as Broadjam #1 singles. Tammy reached the top 20 with American Idol Underground for *No Other Love*.

Visit www.rootsoul.com for updates. Also check out: www.cdbaby.com/tammyharris and www.myspace.com/tammyharrisrootsoul.

Nina Vaca

Nina Vaca founded Pinnacle in 1996 as an information technology services provider to the Fortune 500. Today, the company's client base includes industry leaders in the telecommunications, financial services, health care, technology, consumer products and business process outsourcing sectors. Pinnacle provides IT-enabled solutions in the growing area of vendor management via a proprietary solution that cap-

tures all aspects of the client-vendor relationship. Pinnacle also provides IT staff augmentation services, professional staffing and payroll services.

Under Vaca's leadership, Pinnacle has become the second fastest growing firm in a \$20 billion dollar industry, and now includes approximately 3,000 consultants across 45 states. Pinnacle is one of the most widely recognized and honored compa-

nies nationwide, garnering over 38 national and local awards over the past 4 years including consecutive top rankings in the Inc. 500 and Staffing Industry Report.

A two-time winner of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's prestigious Business Woman of the Year Award, Vaca has also appeared in Fast Company Magazine as one of the Top 25 Women Business Builders in the country. In addition, she was recently selected as one of the 50 Most Important Hispanics in Business &

Technology by Hispanic Engineering & Technology Magazine and one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in America by Latino Leaders Magazine.

Friday evening Vaca was recognized as the Emerging Company CEO winner at the Metroplex Technology Business Council's annual Tech Titans gala.

In 2008, Pinnacle's revenues were a reported \$200 million despite the rough economy. This year Pinnacle received Energy Future Holdings' Gold Star Supplier

Award. The recipients of the Gold Star Suppliers award are minority and women owned companies who have shown excellent service and are dedicated to their community and a diverse workforce.

She is a member of the Dallas Summit and Youth President's Organization.

She is a graduate of Texas State University with a B.A. in Speech Communications and Business Administration where she was honored as the youngest Distinguished Alumna in university



history. Vaca also holds a Doctor of Laws "Honoris Causa" from Northwood University.

Stephen Morris

His position is Quarterback. His number is 12. His high school team is the Monsignor Pace Spartans. And his future is very

bright. Stephen Morris of Miami Shores, one of Florida's top rated high school quarterbacks, recently announced his verbal commitment to attend the University of Miami (UM) – beginning the fall of 2010.

Before committing to Miami, Morris was offered scholarships to play at Purdue, Virginia, Northwestern, Connecticut, Central Florida, Vanderbilt, Florida International University, and Central Michigan, among others. But in the end,

UM felt like home.

"I am very excited about joining the Hurricanes' football team," said Morris. "UM is the perfect place for me both athletically and academically. I know this football team is going to win championships, and I want to be a part of it. I look forward to contributing to this team immediately and making a huge impact."

Making an impact is a fact of life for Morris. He is rated the #2 quarterback in Florida by Scouts.com, and the 27th best dual-threat quarterback in the nation by Rivals.com. Morris will most likely be the only quarterback the Hurricanes sign in their 2010 class. He finished his junior year completing 64 percent of his passes for 2,005 yards, 19 touchdowns and nine interceptions.

Morris had a very impressive off-season, win-

ning accolades and awards at every football camp he attended. He recorded the fastest 40 yard time for quarterbacks (4.59 seconds) at the U.S. Army Combine in San Antonio, and earned the highest overall score at the DeBartolo Football Academy Skills Challenge in Ft. Lauderdale, to name just a few.

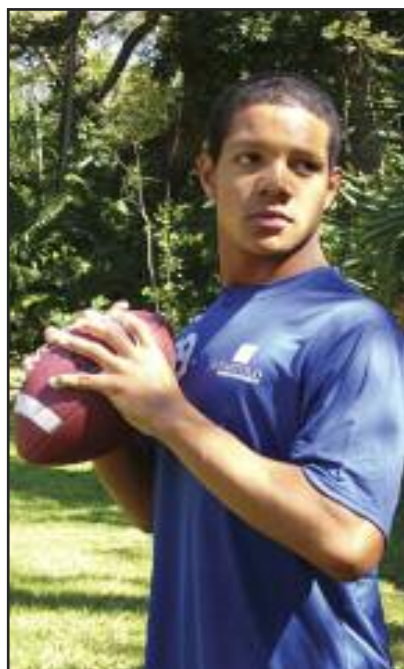
Morris, who turns 17 in August, already stands at 6'3" and weighs 190 pounds. The Miami Shores native enters his senior year at Pace with an impressive 3.5 core GPA.

"Stephen has tremendous talent and is a great team player," said Alvin Slaughter, head football coach at Monsignor Edward Pace High School. "He's in a league of his own, and I expect him to go on and do great things at both the collegiate and professional levels. Miami is the perfect

school for him and they are getting a real gem."

For more information on Stephen Morris, contact

Sonshine Communications at 305-948-8063, or visit his website at www.morrisqb.com.



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North Dallas Gazette

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1933 – 2009

Published By

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MON-The Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

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Where is Your 401K?

BY MICHAEL G. SHINN

(NNPA) The past twelve months have been like a roller coaster ride through an economic horror show. On the downhill slope, we have seen brokerage and bank failures, a contentious presidential election, an \$800 billion dollar stimulus package and we hit the bottom in March when GM and Chrysler filed for bankruptcy. On the uphill slope, we have been teased by "glimmers of light," heard screams about "cash for clunkers" and are in the middle of an onboard brawl over health care reform.

Like most people you have probably been holding your head down while the economic roller coaster has been twisting, turning and going through its gyrations. You may have missed the fact that the stock market, as measured by the S&P 500 index, is up 52% from its low in March, but is still down 20 percent from a year ago. (In-

vestors cannot invest directly in an index) This has been a gut wrenching trip, but like most good roller coaster rides, we may be close to getting back to the station. No wonder you've had neither the time nor the inclination to look at your 401k statements.

Where is your 401K?

If your 401k retirement account is like most, it is probably down about 20 percent from a year ago. Go online or look at your last statement and answer a few questions:

- How does the total value compare to a year ago?
- What are your percentages of equities/stocks, bonds and cash?
- How do these percentages compare with your desired percentages of each?
- What percentage of the total is in your company's stock?

Are you satisfied with the overall performance of your account and the allocation of

your investments? If not, you may be ready for a 401k makeover.

401K Makeover

If your company uses one of the large 401k service providers, such as Fidelity or Vanguard, then the process is fairly straight forward, using the portfolio review systems available on their websites. If your 401k plan does not have a portfolio review system, then you may want to meet with your financial advisor or use the review system on websites such as: moneycentral.msn.com; quicken.com; and mint.com. Most of the portfolio review systems have three basic steps and may take you about an hour to complete.

First you provide some basic financial information about yourself, next you fill out a risk tolerance questionnaire and finally the system recommends a target asset allocation. The target allocations can range from very ag-

gressive to very conservative based on your age, financial situation and risk tolerance.

Your current investments are then compared to your target allocation and you are asked if you want your account rebalanced to the target allocation. In the future, your portfolio would be rebalanced each year to the prescribed percentages.

Life Cycle Funds

Using Life Cycle Funds is a simpler way to manage your 401k retirement fund. To select a life cycle fund all that is required is your age, planned retirement age and the current year. In the early years, the life cycle funds invest more aggressively. As the individual approaches retirement age, the fund invests more conservatively.

Completing your 401K Makeover

To complete your 401k makeover, you may want to

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VOICES, continued from Page 1

the "hand up, not hand out" type of rhetoric coming from the lips of so-called liberals who have jumped on the "what's wrong with poor people" bandwagon. In a recession, the same thing is wrong with poor people as rich ones, but poor folks just have fewer reinforcements - jobs are disappearing, people are not spending, and if the economy is recovering it is doing so at a snail's pace.

And we are leaving people behind. Senator Kennedy was buried on the same day that a group of New Orleans activists put "hands around the dome" to commemorate the people who died in the Superdome as Hurricane Katrina raged in 2005.

The commemoration, led by the African American Leadership Project and Mtangulizi Sanyika, is one way of reminding us that nearly 1900 people died in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and that the city is still not back to normal. Thousands are still living in FEMA trailers, many have not received

their "road home" money, and few have really been made whole. We spent \$700 billion to bail out bankers last year, but we have yet to fully assist New Orleans. Indeed, some say they have "Katrina fatigue" and don't want to hear about the event that took place four years ago. Move on, they say, stuff happens.

President Barack Obama and his disaster recovery chief, Craig Fugate, have been instrumental in moving recovery along in New Orleans, approving as many as 75 projects - including libraries and schools - that had been bogged down in red tape because of complicated intergovernmental relationships, where boards, commissions, and elected bodies all have overlapping authority.

In his Saturday radio address, the president said that red tape should not get in the way of progress in New Orleans. Eleven Cabinet officers have visited New Orleans to learn how they can help the city move to full re-

covery.

What does full recovery look like? What about those who were left behind? Through Hurricane Katrina and the broken levees (let's not forget that the levees did not have to break) we began to have a conversation about race, poverty and politics, a rather painful conversation that was fraught with denial, even as former President George Bush promised Senator Trent Lott a new home, and delivered far more dollars per capita to Mississippi than to Louisiana. We are still having uncomfortable conversations about race, conversations that may be less, not more comfortable since President Obama's election.

Full recovery in New Orleans might include the rebuilding of Charity Hospital (maybe even the renaming of it), the hospital that was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. Where do poor people go for health care now? Are they better off or worse off without the hospital they

once relied on? Would they be assisted by the national health care plan the Obama administration has developed? A voice like Senator Edward Kennedy's is missing in this conversation. Who will replace him and, more importantly, who will speak out for the voiceless?

The Congressional Black Caucus will hold its annual Legislative Forum just a few weeks from now. There are sessions, I know, on the economy and the environment, on the status of women, and on the economic stimulus package. It would be a tragedy if there were not planned sessions on the status of the recovery in New Orleans, with reporting from some of the voices on the ground that we so rarely hear from. The CBC can be an effective voice for the voiceless, and they can also offer the Katrina voiceless a platform.

Julianne Malveaux is President of Bennett College for Women. She may be reached at presbennett@bennett.edu.

For Inactive Kids, Play Can Be Just What the Doctor Ordered

BY TEXAS HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

A stock conversational topic in any middle-agers' social gathering is "How Things Were Better When We Were Kids." Once this discussion starts, it's just a matter of time until some exasperated parent serves up their own video-addicted, couch potato kids as Exhibit A: "You never see kids just playing in sprinklers, riding bikes or throwing frisbees anymore!"

This trend is blamed for many negative outcomes including, almost invariably, childhood obesity. But is that really true? And, if so, how can parents encourage their children to pull out the iPod earbuds, lay down the Wii controller and go outside for some healthy physical activity?

To answer the first question, scientific opinion is divided as to how the

growing percentage of overweight kids relates to their perceived lack of physical activity. Researchers agree that diet is a key factor, but opinion diverges on the role of physical activity levels.

Smart parents will ignore the controversy and focus on two clear facts: Weight gain happens when more calories are consumed than burned, and active kids with healthy diets tend to be physically healthier than their less active, junk food eating peers.

Since most moms and dads find it easier to influence what pre-teen children eat (by purchasing healthier foods and monitoring how much is consumed at home) than to get them up and moving, we'll focus on the exercise side of the equation.

Here are a few practical tips from the Mayo Clinic

and National Association of Sport and Physical Education:

1. Start 'em Early — Children between one and three need at least 90 minutes of physical activity every day. This should include a mix of structured activity (holding your child's hands while he or she jumps, exploring the backyard together, climbing stairs) and unsupervised play (crawling, exploring or playing with toys).

Toddlers shouldn't be inactive for more than an hour at a time, except when sleeping. One way to discourage inactivity is to limit TV and DVD-viewing from an early age. This not only encourages independent physical activity, but also reduces the "cold turkey" effect of weaning older kids off established video habits.

2. Be the Example — As passionately as kids may

deny it, parents are major influences on their thought and behavior. Parents who "reward" themselves after work by ripping open a party-sized bag of Tostitos and settling in for a Law and Order marathon have little credibility when they urge their children to be more active. So set the tone by making physical activity a standard feature of your daily life.

Ride your bike or rollerblade around the neighborhood. Walk the dog. Jog or walk to the drugstore instead of driving. Organize a game of pickup basketball or softball. What you do isn't so important. What matters from your children's standpoint is seeing that you believe in what you're selling to them.

3. Sell it as Activity, Not Exercise — Although it may not always be obvious, kids

are drawn to physical activity as long as it looks like fun, not work. With smart planning, the fun factor can be added in many ways. If you're hosting a birthday party, hold it at a bowling alley, batting cage, paintball field or indoor climbing wall. Or make it a *So You Think You Can Dance* party, with your child as the deejay.

To encourage daily activity, fill your home (and yard, if you have one) with opportunities for spontaneous play: basketball goals, "beach volleyball" pits, badminton nets or treehouses, just to name a few. If your child looks bored, throw down a basketball or touch football challenge. Games between kids and parents not only promote health but also encourage closeness and may inspire conversations that wouldn't naturally occur in other settings.

tings.

4. Don't Push Too Hard — Some children enjoy organized team or club sports such as soccer, baseball, swimming and gymnastics. Others, however, chafe under mom and dad's efforts to schedule their lives and may come to think of physical activity as a chore to be abandoned at the first opportunity. Watch and listen to your kids to learn their preferences. Then, respect and work with those preferences. A boy or girl who dislikes team sports may take readily to hiking, skateboarding, bicycling, martial arts or dancing.

Be open-minded and focus on the bottom line. Games that you cherished as a child may not have the same appeal or relevance to your kids. Activity is activity. After all, when was the last time you saw an overweight skateboarder?

Breast Cancer Awareness through Massage Therapy

(NDG Wire) Massage Envy proudly announces the launch of the nationwide Massage for the Cure initiative with Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The effort will generate breast cancer awareness and raise funds for education, screening and treatment of breast cancer, while also providing people with the health benefits of massage therapy.

Massage Envy's Massage for the Cure nationwide event is Tuesday, September 15, 2009. During this one-day event, Massage Envy clinics will offer \$35 one-hour therapeutic massage sessions — with \$10 going directly to local Susan G. Komen for the Cure chapters. Additional donations will also be accepted from now until September 15, 2009.

"Nationally, our goal is to raise \$500,000 for Susan G. Komen for the Cure," said Lance O'Pry, Dallas Fort Worth regional developer for Massage Envy, the leading provider of massage therapy in the U.S.

"All our 26 Dallas/Fort Worth based owners, staff and therapists are looking forward to Massage for the Cure, and the opportunity to give back to the community that has allowed us to thrive during a period of economic hardship for many people. And, this event is even more special for us here in Dallas/Fort Worth since Susan G. Komen for the Cure is headquartered in Dallas."

All donations will stay within the Susan G. Komen local chapters, benefiting breast cancer awareness in Massage Envy communities. Massage for the Cure event details are available at www.MassageEnvy.com.

Appointments and reservations for the Massage for the Cure event can be made beginning August 15 at any Massage Envy clinic in the nation. To find the closest Massage Envy go to www.massageenvy.com.

Since Massage for the Cure's inception in 2005, Massage Envy has raised over \$800,000 to support breast cancer research for re-

gional chapters of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Susan G. Komen for the Cure funds breast cancer education, screening and treatment initiatives.

This year alone, more than 180,000 women and men in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and more than 40,000

will lose their lives to the disease. A woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every three minutes and the disease claims another life every 13 minutes.

At Massage Envy, an introductory one-hour massage session (a 50-minute massage and time for consultation and dressing) is just \$39.

Memberships are available for \$49 per month and include a one-hour massage session. Members may also enjoy unlimited additional one-hour massage sessions at the \$39 member rate.

Log on to www.massageenvy.com to find the nearest Massage Envy clinic.

There are 26 Massage Envy locations throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and 500 nationwide. All are open seven days per week.

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Frisco's Bonnie Ruth's Cafe Trottoir et Patisserie Expands

BY RUTH FERGUSON
NDG EDITOR

Bonnie Ruth's Café Trottoir et Patisserie is a popular dining spot in Frisco. And soon guests will have more room when the

expansion into the space next door is complete. The 2,137-square-foot addition at The Shops at Starwood will allow for a breakfast menu, additional bar seating, a private dining area for



groups and parties, a quick meal take-out area and an expanded bakery with chef Bonnie Ianace, who is

known throughout the metroplex for her pastry skills.

"We are thrilled to grow Bonnie Ruth's, and meet the needs of our community with more space for private

events, more bakery and quick take-out meals," said Ernie Ianace, chef Bonnie's partner.

"Bonnie Ruth's has been a strategic partner in creating the destination at-

mosphere at The Shops at Starwood. We look forward to their expansion and driving more business for all the tenants," said Kirk Hermansen, owner of The Shops at Starwood.

Garland Police Labor Day DWI Patrols

(NDG Wire) The Garland Police Department is cracking down on drunk drivers this Labor Day. Since August 21, Garland has had additional officers patrolling the streets for drunk drivers, and the ini-

tiative will run through Monday, September 7.

The additional patrols are funded by the Impaired Driver Mobilization Grant sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). The grant's aim

is enforcing DWI laws for all drivers, with a special emphasis on Driving Under the Influence by Minors.

By mid August, Garland police officers had made 325 arrests for DWI and filed 24 additional cases of

Driving Under the Influence by Minors.

In Texas, someone is

hurt or killed in an alcohol related crash every 19 minutes, and drunk-driving

claims 5 lives every day. This year Garland has had six fatality crashes.

Richardson's Great Fountain Plaza Festival Goes Green

(NDG Wire) Talk about recycling a great (green) theme! The Great Fountain Plaza Festival, hosted by the City of Richardson, is Saturday, September 12, and its theme is "It's a Big Green Jungle Out There." Last year's annual festival was to have had a "green" theme, but it was cancelled due to the threat of severe weather from Hurricane Ike.

This year's festival will focus on fun ways to recycle and "green efforts" offered by the City of Richardson. Other activities include entertainment by local performing groups, children's entertainers, and plenty of fun games and activities for kids, in-

cluding Recycled Relay Races, Tin Can Alley, De-Litter Critters, Diggin' for Dinner Grubs, Fountain Fishing, bounce houses, a gigantic slide and 52 tons of sand in the Sand Fill – Land Fill.

The Richardson Community Band will close the festival with a season finale concert.

This popular festival will also feature local social, service, civic, arts and educational organizations

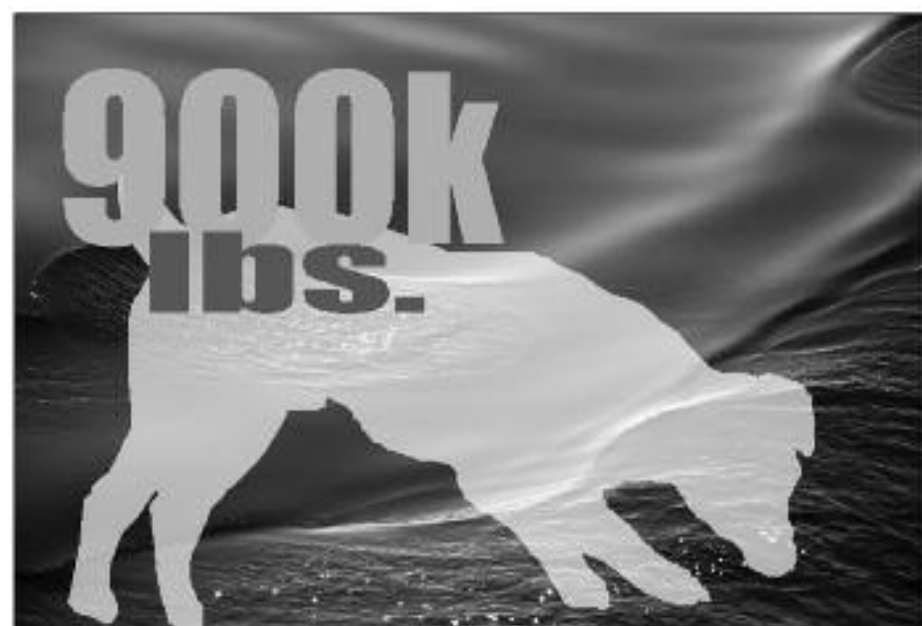
Each year, approximately fifty area groups, including Altrusa Club and Clean and Green in Richardson, participate in the festival. Groups are given free booth space and electricity, and can use the op-

portunity to distribute literature, educate the public on their goals and/or cause and recruit new members.

The Great Fountain Plaza Festival is the perfect setting to enjoy a day with family and friends, while learning more about what your community has to offer.

It is held at Richardson's City Hall, 411 West Arapaho Rd., and runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Parking and admission are free.

For more information Suzanne Etman, Community Events Supervisor, City of Richardson Parks and Recreation Department suzanne.etman@cor.gov, or 972-744-4584.



Fact:

1.2 million registered dogs in DFW produce an estimated 900,000 pounds

of waste. Pet waste can daily pollute the storm drainage system, including area creeks, lakes, and the Trinity River, potentially harming plants and aquatic wildlife.

Tips:

+Pick up after your pet during walks.

+Choose at least one day a week to collect pet waste in your yard.

+Dispose the waste by flushing it down a toilet or double bagging it as trash.

Visit us at www.wheredoesitgo.com



Hospice Volunteer Training Begins September 14

The Visiting Nurse Association needs hospice volunteers in North Dallas to help terminally ill patients and their families.

Volunteers are an essential part of the hospice team and help in many ways. Direct care volunteers provide emotional support, caregiver relief and assistance with errands. Bereavement

volunteers help comfort grieving family members, co-facilitate grief support groups or assist with monthly luncheons. Administrative volunteers help with clerical duties and other program support activities.

A training class in volunteer hospice care will meet September 14, 17, 21,

24, 28 and October 1, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., on the fifth floor of the Visiting Nurse Association offices at 1600 Viceroy Drive in Dallas. There is no cost to attend the training.

To register for the class, contact Julie Feltner, VNA Hospice Volunteer Manager, at 214-689-2672 or feltnerj@vnatexas.org.

Winners Camp Introduces At-Risk Teens to New Opportunities

(NDG Wire) Winners Camp in Dallas County proved that all teens can be winners when given the chance. With a mixture of fun and tuition, approximately 20 at-risk teens in Dallas County improved their reading and social skills.

For six weeks of their summer vacation, the students spent weekday mornings in an intensive reading curriculum, with a 5:1 student-to-teacher ratio. Learning continued in the afternoons, but it was informal

and fun. The teens took tours of the wax museum, had lessons about hurricanes at the IMAX theater, trips to nature spots, cultural centers, hospital and sports centers, and office buildings.

The students, ages 12 to 17, are in or on the fringes of the juvenile justice system. Some are on probation, have had truancy issues, or are in the Dallas County Youth Village.

"These teens have had unique opportunities this summer to which they may

have never been exposed," said Rhonda Hunter, former president of the Dallas Bar Association. "In the morning, they received the equivalent of a private school education. In the afternoon, they met with professionals and shared experiences that opened their minds to new horizons."

Students were tested by Shelton School staff at the beginning of the Winners Camp. They were tested at the conclusion of the program, and they all showed some improvement, with

most making dramatic increases in reading and writing ability. Shelton School is a private nonprofit accredited school for learning-different students.

Most students in Winners Camp were two or more grade levels behind in reading, but showed the potential to learn. The program was created by a think tank led by

Dallas lawyers Rhonda Hunter and Paula Miller, co-chair of the DBA Juvenile Justice Committee and a sponsor of the program.

Irving Food Service Opens Online Payment Program

(NDG Wire) New for the 2009-2010 school year, Irving Independent School District Food Service Department is accepting payments online for student meal accounts.

Using the ParentOnline secure system, parents can keep their student's meal ac-

count up to date using a Visa or MasterCard. The online system is designed to alleviate lost or stolen meal money, allows for prepayment for meals, provides

highly secure transactions, allows parents to establish automatic payments and is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For information or to set up an account, access www.irvingisd.net/ppage/Online-MealPayments.htm.



Plano College Nights September 14 & 15

(NDG Wire) Plano West Senior High School and Plano Senior High School will host College Nights. All Plano ISD students and parents are invited to attend these events, where more than 200 colleges and universities will be represented.

September 14

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Plano West Senior High
5601 West Parker Road
Plano, TX 75093

September 15

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Plano Senior High
2200 Independence Pkwy.

Plano, TX 75075
Be Prepared for the Event

Choose the presentations or tables you know you want to visit. Save time for browsing in the cafeteria and at the college tables. Be open to schools whose names you have never heard of... they may be the perfect place for you.

Questions for College Reps

What is the most important criteria in your admissions process: grades, rank in class, extracurricular ac-

tivities, high school curriculum? When is the application deadline? How do I find out about scholarships and financial aid? Which majors are the strongest on your campus? Does the college have the major or minor I want? Must freshmen live on campus?



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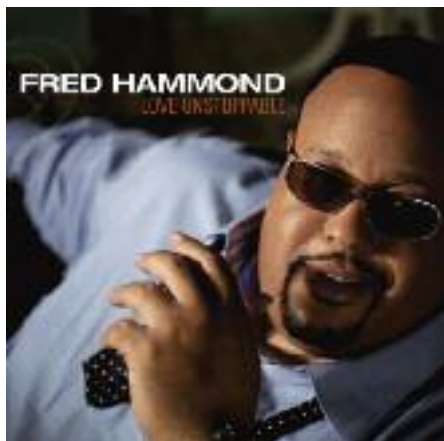
TXU Energy AidSM 25 Years of Service

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Methodist Charlton Medical Center New Patient Tower Community Gospel Great Fred Hammond Headlines

(NDG Wire) To celebrate the opening of a new 72-bed patient tower, Methodist Charlton Medical Center is hosting a community day of fun and entertainment on Saturday, September 12 from noon to 4 p.m.

The free, family-friendly event will feature tours of the spacious new facility, entertainment and carnival games, refreshments, giveaways and free health screenings. Award-Winning contemporary



gospel artist Fred Hammond is the featured entertainer. Dallas native and

award-winning recording artist Donna Kay, Spoken Word by Theo, and Blacksmith Productions are also part of the entertainment. The event will include something for everyone, including a fire engine simulator from the City of Lan-

caster.

Healthier lifestyles will be promoted with a demonstration by Methodist Charlton Fitness Expert Jessica Brown, and booths with information about the many health services available at Methodist Charlton.

Attendees can take lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy the free concert and other entertainment.

Methodist Charlton is located at 3500 W. Wheatland Road in Dallas.

The patient tower is

part of a \$116 million Methodist Charlton expansion project, and is scheduled to open this fall. It includes larger patient rooms that are double the size of current rooms, each with a flat-screen TV and wireless internet connection. Mini nursing stations, one for each pair of patient rooms, will provide enhanced patient quality and safety. An entire floor will be dedicated to telemetry for heart monitoring, and a new surgery suite will open with

seven operating rooms, including an operating room specially designed for heart surgery. With the opening of the new patient tower, the number of licensed beds will increase from 254 to 301. For more information on the new patient bed tower and a virtual tour, visit www.methodisthealthsystem.org/charltonbed-tower. You can also follow updates on the community event and new bed tower on www.twitter.com/methodistcharlton.

Bob Tomes Ford Lincoln Mercury and McKinney North High School Team up for a Unique Fundraising Opportunity

(NDG Wire) Bob Tomes Ford Lincoln Mercury and McKinney North High School invite participants to help the school raise money by test-driving an all new 2010 Taurus, Fusion Hybrid, Mercury MKT, or Lincoln Navigator at McKinney North High School as part of the Ford Drive One 4 UR School program.

Despite difficult economic times, Ford Motor Company continues to show its commitment to the community by sponsoring this popular program with the cooperation of local dealers like Bob Tomes Ford Lincoln Mercury in McKinney.

The Drive One 4 UR School event on Saturday, September 19th will help

raise money for McKinney North High School. For each participant that test-drives a qualifying vehicle, Ford Motor Company and Bob Tomes Ford Lincoln Mercury will donate \$20 to McKinney North High School. The community can raise as much as \$6,000, which will be used for the North Stars, McKinney North High School's

award winning drill team.

The event is scheduled for 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the McKinney North High School East parking lot (2550 Wilmeth Road). Each test-drive will last approximately five minutes. Participants must be 18 or older and have a valid driver's license. There is a limit of one test-drive per household.

Social Media Workshop on September 12

Social networking sites are more than online vehicles for casual communication between family and friends. They have also become valuable resources for advancement in the business and professional world.

Social media expert

J.R. Atkins of Something Different Co., can help you become more familiar with Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and other social networks during a training workshop sponsored by ManeLock Communications.

The workshop will be

held Saturday, Sept. 12, from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at The Total Wellness Center, 1700 Commerce Street (corner of Ervay) in downtown Dallas.

Atkins will share tips on how to use social media for personal and professional goals.

The workshop fee is \$15. RSVP is required as seating is limited. For information call (214) 803-3920 or email info@manelockcommunications.com

PayPal or mail check or money order to: ManeLock Communications, PO Box 720746, Dallas, TX 75372.

MUSIC, continued from Page 1

and the Fairlanes have been enormously popular since the late '70's offering up a fun mix of Latin jazz, Swing and World

Beat music. They have been a huge part of the Austin musical experience over the decades, playing such venues as The Armadillo World Headquarters, Liberty Lunch and Soap Creek Saloon, and making appearances on Austin City Limits.

"It's all about the fun!"

says Beto.

To learn more about "The International Band of Texas", visit www.betoandthefairlanes.com.

Southern Rock Night will bring legends "Atlanta Rhythm Section" to Plano on Saturday, October 3rd. Along with their contemporaries Lynyrd Skynyrd, these prolific musicians were considered legitimate successors to the Allman Brothers as kings of regional rock in the

'70's and '80's. Their impressive musical catalogue includes many top ten hits that have been covered by the biggest names in the business.

Bring your own lawn chairs and/or blankets and enjoy the show in comfort. Picnics and coolers are welcome. Alcohol is permitted for those 21 years of age and up. Parking is free.

No pets, please. Only service animals are allowed.

Admission to each concert is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (60 years and up), and \$8 for children twelve and younger. Children age three and younger are admitted free.

Tickets may be obtained at <http://planostages.tix.com>, or purchased at the gate starting one hour before curtain time.

For more information, visit www.planostages.com.

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Ongoing

African American Republican Club of Collin County meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. (Doors open at 6:30 pm.) Collin County Republican Party HQ, 8416 Stacy Road, McKinney. Call Fred Moses at 972-618-7027 or fred@tes.com for more information.

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce, September 10. CCBCC General Meetings for Summer Quarter, McKinney Public Library, 101 E. Hunt Street McKinney

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce: Monthly Lunch & Learn - August 20 & September 17, \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, 11:00am until 1:00pm at the El Fenix Restaurant, 3450 S. Central Expressway, McKinney. Info: (469) 424-0120.

DFW Financially Empowered Women meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. For info: 469-942-0809 or meeetup.com/378.

Marriage Prep Class 1st Saturdays monthly. 423 West Wheatland Rd. Suite 101, Duncanville. \$10 fee for materials. For info call Karen Duval at 972-709-1180.

No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch 1st Thursday at 1 pm in Plano Must RSVP at www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com or 972-898-5882.

The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) Learning Over Lunch Series: 4th Saturdays, 11am-1pm, Remarkable Affairs Cafe, 2727 LBJ Freeway, Suite 140, Dallas, \$20 for members; \$35 for non-members, \$5 off for early bird registration. See <http://nbwenorg.ning.com>.

Thru October 25

The George Washington Carver: An Extraordinary Man With A Mighty Vision Exhibit at The African American Museum, 3536 Grand Avenue, Historic Fair Park, Dallas, 214-565-9026, \$5 Adults, \$2 Children www.aamdallas.org

September 5-6

2009 City of Bedford Labor Day Blues & BBQ Festival a feast for the senses. The two-day event returns with an entertaining lineup of local talent, blues legends Buddy Guy and The Fabulous Thunderbirds and a \$10,000 barbecue cook-off. Gates open at 2 pm each day.

September 10

The Plano City Council Neighborhood Roundtable - District 4, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the Plano Sports Authority StarCenter, 6500 Preston Meadow

"Princeton Review: Getting In" is set for 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 10, at the Spring Creek Campus Conference Center, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, in Plano.

DFW International Diner with keynote speaker Mayor Tom Leppert of Dallas at Temple Emanu-El, 8500 Hillcrest Road at 6 p.m. and will include a banquet featuring 17 courses from around the world with flags from 54 countries in the Parade of Nations. Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased online or by phone. Info: www.dfwinternational.org

September 12

NAACP Garland Branch 19th Annual Freedom Fund & Silent Auction Celebration at the GISD Special Events Center, 4999 Naaman Forest Blvd. at George Bush Turnpike, Garland. The Silent Auction begins at 9:00 a.m. and

the brunch will begin at 10:00 a.m.

September 13

Plano Bridal Show 12:00 pm to 5 pm. Admission is \$10 for adults, children 14 and under \$5 (includes toddlers & infants). Info: 972-713-9920 or www.bridal-showsinc.com

September 16

The Irving International Women's Consortium at 6 p.m. at the office of TXU Energy, 6555 Sierra Drive, Irving. Bring an ethnic or culutural dish that reflects your background for an evening of food and networking. The event is free, but registration is requested. Please RSVP no later than Thursday, September 10, 2009. To register for this event and to provide dish you will bring, please contact either Dianne Orfanos 469-831-9133 dorfanos@dcccd.edu or Monica Ellington 972-831-8866 monica@iivc.net

September 17

Capacity Building with Grants Expo: Meet non-profit groups, educators, successful grant writers, and share strategies. From 8am to 5pm Admission \$39 Info: Tasa Anderson at 903-639-4519 or www.grantexperts.info

Jethro Pugh UNCF Scholarship Invitational Golf Tournament at Tour 18, for sponsorship and golfer information call (972) 234-1007.

September 18 - 20

EDS Credit Union Plano Balloon Festival at Oak Point Park, 2801 E. Spring Creek Parkway. Admission: \$8 Day Ticket (allows re-admission during the day); \$5 Single Admission Event Ticket, Special \$4 Discount Ticket between 9 am & 3 pm Saturday & Sunday. Kids under 36" free. Sen-

iors 65 & older \$1 off any ticket price. Info: Jo Via at (972) 867-7566 or www.planoballoonfest.org

September 18

Jazz Friday featuring Faith Band 7:00 - 10:00 pm, 13342 Midway Road Suite 250 at ArtFest Intl, Dallas. Tickets: \$10 - \$25, email stephanie@stephaniestips.com for paypal link and e-ticket.

25th Annual Partnership Golf Tournament at Firewheel Golf Park, Garland. Tee off at 9 a.m. Contact Jami Manners at jami.manners@garlandchamber.com for more information of to register for this tournament.

September 19

Arnez J & Earthquake at Nokia Theatre in Grand Prairie at 8 p.m.

September 23 - 26

Life Enrichment Boot Camp Admission Fee: \$200 per person. From 6pm to 11pm Info: David Bishop at 214-736-9991, www.lifeenrichmentbootcamp.com or www.marriagebootcamp.com

September 24

AARP Driver Safety Classes 6-10 p.m. Fee is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. Reservations may be made by calling 972-744-7800.

UNCF's Annual DFW Campaign Kick Off Reception RSVP by September 17th at (972) 234-1007

September 25

Jamie Foxx at Nokia Theatre in Grand Prairie at 8 p.m.

8th Annual Fiesta-on-the-Square, Hispanic Heritage Celebration in 6:00-10:00 p.m., Info: Denton Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, djurbina@texstar.us, 940-565-1919.

September 26

City of Garland is hosting **Healthy Living Expo**

A Gospel Musical Concert at 5:00 p.m. hosted by Granny's Place, Inc. a non profit residential home for girls in and aging out of foster care at the Free Will Baptist Church, 1415 Wheatland Road in Duncanville.

September 30

Annual Celebration of Enterprise Business Expo Awards Luncheon at 11:30am-1pm, Business Expo 10 am-3:00pm, VIP Reception 10:30-11:30 am Luncheon tickets are \$45 and a table of 10 is \$400; after August 14th Luncheon tickets are \$65 and a table of 10 is \$600. Admission to the Business Expo is open to the public and Free. Info: 972-612-2425 or www.celebrationofenterprise.com

Garland Mayor's Evening In ~ 5-7 p.m. City Hall, 200 North Fifth Street To reserve a time slot, call 972-205-2471 or email edattamo@ci.garland.tx.us

October 2

Envogue is performing at the SWA State Fair Classic Pre-Game at the Cotton Bowl

Jazz Series at Bishop Arts Theater Center hosted by Camron Smith featuring Phil Perry with Kim Waters

Richardsons NETWORK of Community Ministries hosts annual tournament beginning with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Four-person teams will play a Florida Scramble at Sherrill Park Pavilion.

Dallas Alumni Chapter of Prairie View A&M University are hosting **14th Annual Athletic Scholarship Gala** at 6:30 p.m. at the

Westin City Center Hotel-Downtown Dallas (650 North Pearl Street).

October 3

Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic at Cotton Bowl, Dallas

October 6

Susan G. Komen for the Cure Golf Tournament at the Eldorado Country Club in McKinney. Tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Oct. 6. Tournament fee is \$90, deadline for registration is Sept. 28. Entry forms/info 972-473-5961.

October 13

National Night Out the theme is "Give Neighborhood Crime and Drugs a Going Away Party."

October 16

Jazz Friday featuring Freddie Jones Band 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., 13342 Midway Road Suite 250 at ArtFest International, Dallas. Tickets: \$10 - \$25, email stephanie@stephaniestips.com for paypal link and e-ticket.

October 17

A Taste Of Plano 12:00 - 8:00 pm. Activities include food samples for purchase, qine tastings, demos, music and more. visitdowntownplano.com.

October 24

Collin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 10th Anniversary Gala at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel & Conference Center, 705 Central Expressway South, in Allen at 7 pm \$90 for a single ticket, \$150 for two and \$720 for a table for eight. Info: www.cchchamber.org or 972-548-2608.

October 27

Jobing.com Career Expo Will Rogers Coliseum, 3401 W. Lancaster, Ft. Worth, 12 noon - 5 pm

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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

Dating Solutions Available at the Click of the Mouse for Single African Americans

BY JACKIE HARDY
NDG CONTRIBUTOR

Technology continues to change our lives. It is responsible for cassette tapes being replaced by CDs, VCRs being replaced by

DVD players and now the pick-up line "can I get your number" being replaced by "can I get your online user name."

This is a familiar question for singles who are join-

ing social networking sites such as E-Harmony, Match.com and Blackpeoplemeet.com to connect with other singles who share their social, religious and political interests.

According to a study conducted by Online Publishers Association (OPA) and comScore Networks, residents living in the United States spent more than five-hundred million dollars on online dating and personals in 2004, the second largest segment of paid content.

And African Americans are contributing significantly to this. African American web visitors are growing by 88 percent annually, and more than one million new African Americans joined dating sites in 2007, accord-

ing to a report by comScore Media Metrics.

People Media is the leading operator of targeted dating sites for specific demographic groups. It operates 27 sites, including BlackPeopleMeet.com, SingleParentsMeet.com, SeniorPeopleMeet.com, BBPeopleMeet.com (a website designed for the big and beautiful), and LoveAndSeek.com.

According to a July 7, 2009, press release issued by IAC Advertising Solutions, Match.com signed a deal to acquire People Media for 80 million dollars. This merge only solidifies People Media's ability to dominate the social networking industry. People Media also recently launched a partnership with AOL to power all AOL Personals niche sites.

Thinking outside of the box is one way to describe the creative marketing strategies People Media executes. Its networking site BlackPeopleMeet.com has joined ventures with Steve Harvey of The Steve Harvey Morning Show to offer a radio date segment to the shows over eight million listeners. "The idea for the radio-based interactive dating segment developed as my wife and I were listening to The Steve Harvey Morning Show during our morning commute. The overall objective for the radio date segment is to provide a fun and entertaining segment, while also providing enough free signups to cover the expense of the deal," said Ron Worthy, vice president of Product and Business Development for People Media.

Worthy said with Harvey's appearance on The Oprah Show and his New York Bestseller book, "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man," Harvey is fast becoming a notable expert on relationship advice, making the partnership a perfect and appropriate collaboration. "We could not find a better part-

ner who exemplifies our goal of building relationships and connecting lives, and we felt Steve Harvey and his radio show would be the ideal partner to get the word out to the African-American com-

BlackPeopleMeet.com.

"I would recommend BlackPeopleMeet.com because it affords you the opportunity to browse the profiles and choose the people that interest you. I believe if



munity about the benefits of online dating," said Worthy.

People Media hopes to change the statistics among African Americans relating to marriage and relationships. According to their extensive company research, the many underlying issues facing the African-American community can be traced back to bad relationships.

"According to the United States Census Bureau, African Americans are half as likely as the general population to get married, which ultimately leads to more single female head-of-the-households. This combined with increased high school dropout and incarceration rates and lower rates in college attendance leads me to believe we need to start at the source (relationships)," Worthy said.

An African American couple changing those negative statistics is Ray Thomas and Vanessa Jordan. The couple met on BlackPeopleMeet.com and, according to Thomas, he knew Vanessa was a match for him when he saw her photo and read her profile. "The photo of Vanessa camping caught my attention. She appeared to be very down to earth and once I read her profile, I knew she was a keeper," said Thomas.

Jordan said she tried other sites like Yahoo Personals, but was not happy with the quality of the site and was not able to make a connection, contrary to the experience she had with

I had not gone to the site, Ray and my paths probably would have never crossed. Both of us joined the site looking for 'the one,' but never imagined that we would be married two years later," said Jordan.

People Media's online dating sites are affordable. There are no fees to join, search and initiate contact. Membership subscriptions start as low as \$9.95 to \$14.95 for one month service, or \$59.70 for six month at \$9.95 per month. And members can take advantage



Ron Worthy

of the unique benefits the sites offer, including online focus of specific demographic groups, economical benefits, more control than offline options, and more privacy.

For more information about People Media's various online dating services, price and membership benefits, visit www.peoplemedia.com.



Ray and Vanessa, married couple who met on BlackPeopleMeet.com.

Online Dating Tips: (Provided by People Media)

How to Create an Online Profile:

- Include personal information.
- Include a personal photo.
- Include a greeting.
- Complete a personality test.
- Include personal video/audio.
- Include creative backgrounds and icons.

Photo Tips: Take solo shots, face and body shots, use quality images, take a variety of photos, update photos regularly and dress appropriately.)

How to Make the First Introduction:

Flirts-People Media online dating sites offer pre-formed, short messages to help break the ice and initiate contact with a potential date.

Utilize Message Ideas - A function available on Blackpeoplemeet.com to help let potential dates know how to approach you.

Personality Test - Designed to help a user determine similarities based on the other person's answers to their personality test.

NOTE: People Media online dating sites provide a clean, straightforward personality tool featuring several short questions and answer choices. The questions are designed to enable the members to add further depth to their profiles, increasing the likelihood of a relevant match.

How to Move from Dating Online to Offline:

- Make and maintain initial contact on dating site.

- Use messages and graduate to chat for longer interactions.

- Evaluate interest.

- Set up time to talk on the phone.

- Have a few phone calls before meeting in person.

Online Tip: Best to use all the messaging features, including chat and messages. Try to refrain from expressing your personality during the flirt phase.

Do's And Don'ts For The "First Meet Up:"

- Do only a 15-30 minute first date.

- Do meet in a public place (coffee house).

- Do be open and honest.

- Do be on time.

- Do dress appropriately for location.

- Don't have dinner on the first date.

- Don't go to a bar or drink alcohol on the first date, if possible.

- Don't try too hard to impress the other person.

- Don't wear suggestive clothing.

- Don't give your personal or financial information.

Uptown Magazine Celebrates Five Years of Luxury, Lifestyle & Living

(BLACK PR WIRE) Uptown Magazine celebrates its Fifth anniversary with the August/September issue on newsstands now. Usher is profiled in *All Grown Up*, with a candid look into life as a newly single dad. Featured stories include a fashion shoot in Paris and retrospective of "Clique," event photos from

the past five years.

Uptown Magazine is the only luxury lifestyle publication for the affluent African-American consumer, and it has experienced tremendous growth since launching Summer 2004. Uptown now publishes six times per year (up from four), reaching a circulation of 200K and read-

ership of over 800K with each issue.

The current issue marks the second largest revenue issue to date, proving that advertisers still seek this coveted audience, despite the economic downturn.

"The world is now a different place for the affluent African American demographic," said Len Burnett,

Uptown's co-founder and group publisher. "Luxury brands understand the importance of niche shoppers with disposable income, and Uptown delivers them efficiently. Uptown's newest luxury advertisers include trendsetters Louis Vuitton, Jorg Gray Chronograph, Saks Fifth Avenue and Christian Dior

watches."

"We're proud of our efforts to maintain business and thrive despite the overall downward trending of the magazine category," said Brett Wright, co-founder and chief creative officer. "We've been privileged to profile important subjects and icons over the past five years, including

Barack Obama, Jamie Foxx, Usher, Sean Combs, Beyonce, Tyra Banks, Alicia Keys and many others."

Uptown's future plans include continued growth for digital destination UptownLife.net, and the further development of intellectual properties such as Uptown TV, Uptown Escape and Uptown Social.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre Announces 2009-2010 Season of TranscenDANCE

(NDG Wire) The Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) announces its 2009-2010 season, TranscenDANCE, the 33rd season as the oldest, continuously operating professional dance company in Dallas. Performances run from October 9, 2009, through May 23, 2010, at Dallas' Majestic Theatre and the new Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre in the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are on sale for season subscriptions and individual tickets.

"Our season of TranscenDANCE invites you to allow your mind, body and spirit to go beyond the limits of understanding the art of dance and movement, and allow Dallas Black Dance Theatre to usher you to that new place of experience," said Ann Williams, founder/artistic director of DBDT.

The 33rd season marks the expansion of series performances from two to five performances per week, beginning on Wednesday evenings with Wine Down Wednesdays, ending with Sunday matinees performance at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday performances will also feature a meet and greet with DBDT Dancers and an invitation to meet choreographers and guest artists.

The season opens with the 4th Annual DanceAfrica, October 9 and 10, 2009. Packed with dance, music, art and food celebrating the history and spirit of Africa, DanceAfrica is for the whole family. Evening performances will be hypnotic, unbridled and

filled with the exquisite traditions of Africa. Guest artists Giwayen Mata of Atlanta, the all female dance, percussion, and vocal ensemble, and Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago will bring audiences into the aisles with its unique synthesis of dance, rhythm, and song.

The weekend includes a free outdoor African Festival, where you can bring the family and enjoy music and dance performances, food and a marketplace of authentic African garb for the entire family. The marketplace will be hosted in the Dallas Arts District on Saturday, October 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The new Winter series, December 2 - 6, 2009, will be full of grace, power, intensity and frailty. For the opening performance at the Dee and Charles Wyly The-

atre, audiences will experience the pre-eminence of this spectacular company of talented dancers as they perform the choreography of America's masters of modern dance. The soul of the dance company will be painted across the stage as Dallas Black Dance Theatre performs Pigs and Fishes, the signature dance of Elisa Monte, Awassa Astrig/Ostrich, the dance of a warrior imitating the grace and power of the ostrich, king of the birds by Asadata Dafora and Camouflage by Ben Stevenson.

The annual Cultural Awareness Series, February 17 - 21, 2010, has no limits. The choreography of Troy Powell, Allyne D. Gartrell and Nycole Ray will surely take audience members to the edge of experiencing dance as Dallas Black Dance Theatre performs

Brother to Brother, Lambarena and Love Tri-Tango. New York choreographer Christopher Huggins returns to DBDT with a spiritually influenced ballet that will move the hearts and souls of all.

Fort Worth audiences will be transformed, moved and energized with the April 15 and 16, 2010, performance of the Dancing Beyond Borders Series. The up close and personal feel of the Fort Worth Scott Theatre will give audiences a chance to experience the electricity and vibrancy of boundless dance when DBDT performs Jazz Course 101 by Christopher Huggins and Malaguena by

Chung-Lin Tseng.

The finale performance weekend, May 19 - 23, 2010, our Spring Celebration Series, will be an extraordinary experience for audience members. Guest artists Dance Theatre of Harlem.

The season will also include DBDT's second company performing at the Latino Cultural Center April 23 and 24. DBDT II will bring their vibrancy, animation and professional artistry to the stage of the Latino Cultural Center. Performing new works from New York-based choreographer and Broadway-based Lion King performer, Ray Mercer and DBDT II Direc-

tor, Allyne D. Gartrell, DBDT II will bring audiences to their feet. "Dallas Black Dance Theatre II's performance will leave you breathless with this high-energy and power packed performance," said Williams.

The subscription ticket packages begin at \$85 and are on sale now. Subscribers to the inaugural season at the Wyly Theatre will have the opportunity to select their seats. Single tickets are on sale now and start at only \$10. Tickets are available at www.dbdt.com or by calling 214-880-0202. For information call 214-871-2376.



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Wingstop Receives *Restaurants & Institutions'* Consumers' Choice in Chains Award

(NDG Wire) Wingstop, the chicken wing chain that sells more than one million wings daily, also ranks among the elite when it comes to customer satisfaction, according to *Restaurants & Institutions*. Wingstop received the publication's Consumers' Choice in Chains Silver Award in the

chicken category. The announcement was made during a ceremony August 17 at The Ritz-Carlton in Dana Point, California.

The Consumers' Choice in Chains awards are voted on by consumers, and winners are named in 13 menu categories based on scores given to each restaurant



chain. In the study, 3,000 consumers were asked to rate nearly 120 chain restaurants on eight customer-satisfaction attributes: food quality, menu variety, value, service, atmosphere, cleanliness, reputation and convenience.

"The *R&I* Consumers' Choice in Chains award is a people's choice award that sends a powerful message to the industry and beyond," said Dan Hogan, Restaurants & Institutions' publisher. "The attributes Wingstop demonstrates clearly set them apart from others in the chicken segment."

"Wingstop is incredibly honored to receive this award," said Jim Flynn, president and CEO of Wingstop. "We take great pride in guest satisfaction and would like to especially acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our brand partners – our network of franchisees, our crew members and our corporate

team."

Wingstop was founded in 1994, began franchising in 1997, and today Wingstop has more than 650 locations open or under development nationwide. In July of this year, Wingstop reached 24 quarters, or six consecutive years, of positive comp store sales.

Collin County Home Sales Continue to Show Improvement

(NDG Wire) Collin County's real estate market continues to show signs of growth. The Collin County Association of Realtors (CCAR) reports that closed sales increased by 3.3 percent in July over the previous

month, and it took an average of three days less to sell a home.

"Real estate sales have peaked in June or July for the last several years running, and 2009 appears to be no exception," says Steve Haid,

CCAR member services director. "The number of projected closed sales in July 2009 was virtually the same as last July - the first time this year that sales have not been substantially lower than the same month in 2008."

The CCAR Pulse, which delves into the real estate markets of 36 local communities, also reports that while most 2009 market indicators are slightly less than 2008, Collin County and surrounding areas are starting to see

hints of recovery. It takes less time to sell a home in 2009 than it did in 2008, and the median sales price is only 1.6 percent lower than last year.

"This is truly a great time to buy a home in Collin County. The housing afford-

ability index is a whopping 12 percent higher than it was a year ago, and to make matters even better for buyers, mortgage interest rates remain near record lows," said Haid.

JAGUAR, continued from Page 1

maining amount Jaguar Land Rover claims is owed.

The problems were limited to internal warranty and sales-incentive paperwork and invoices, and at no time were customers charged for unnecessary or unperformed warranty repairs or service.

However, the lawsuit states Jaguar Land Rover refused to provide the deal-

ership with all information that it uncovered in the course of its audit.

According to Millennium Jaguar of Texas Inc., despite repeated requests, Jaguar Land Rover senior management has refused to reveal all the facts on which the audit was based.

"Millennium owner David Stephens has made a career out of doing the right

thing, and as a result has been recognized for his ethics and business practices alike. He has proven this again by taking the remedial action of voluntarily refunding the money believed to be rightfully owed to the manufacturer," says Millennium's attorney Brian Melton, a partner in Shackelford Melton & McKinley.

"Based on what Jaguar

Land Rover has provided to us, most of their findings are related to superficial paperwork problems. We are extremely confident that a complete examination of the facts will vindicate David Stephens and the Millennium dealership."

Jaguar Land Rover filed its own lawsuit in response to the matter. That case is pending in U.S. District

Court for the Eastern District of Texas.

Millennium was the first African American-owned Jaguar dealership in the United States, and ranked in the top four for new car sales of all U.S. Jaguar dealerships in July

2009.

The dealership also ranked number one in customer satisfaction in 2006 and has been a consistent award-winning sales and service performer during its more than 10 years in business.

401 K, continued from Page 3

consider two other areas:

- Contribution rate - Invest as much as possible in your 401k retirement account, since the contributions are made pre-tax and the gains accrue tax deferred. At retirement, withdrawals will be taxed at ordinary income tax rates. The minimum contribution should be at the level that will trigger the maximum employer match.

- Company Stock- Many financial advisors encourage clients to limit their investment in their employer stock to no more than 5-10% of their net worth. If the company has financial difficulties, your job may be at risk,

as well as your retirement funds.

Many of the economic indicators are pointing to an end of the recession, either later this year or in early 2010. Review your 401k to make sure it is in line with your financial objectives.

Michael G. Shinn, CFP, is a registered representative of the securities and investment advisory services offered through Financial Network Investment Corporation, member SIPC. Visit www.shinnfinancial.com for more information or to send your comments or questions to shinnm@f

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RENTAL, continued from Page 1

U.S. and into the criminals' pockets. And these schemes are profitable, costing victims millions of dollars annually.

In South Carolina, the rental scam problem has become so prevalent that Columbia FBI Special Agent in Charge, David Thomas, recently issued a warning about it to homeowners and prospective renters, particularly in the Charleston, Co-

lumbia and Hilton Head areas.

The scam has also ensnared victims in Rhode Island, Illinois, Colorado, and California, among other states.

How exactly does the rental housing scam work? The criminals search websites that list homes for sale. They take the information in those ads, and post it with their own e-mail address in

a Craigslist ad (without Craigslist's consent or knowledge). To sweeten the pot, the houses are almost always listed at below-market rental rates.

When a prospective renter responds to the ad, they are told the "homeowner" had to leave the U.S. quickly because of some missionary or contract work in Africa. Victims are instructed to send the first

and last month's rent to Nigeria via a wire transfer service, because the crooks know it can't be traced once it gets picked up on the other end.

Renters also fill out credit applications asking for personal information such as credit history, social security numbers and work history.

This information can be used to commit identity

fraud and steal even more money from their victims.

How to avoid being victimized:

Only deal with landlords or renters who are local. Be suspicious if you're asked to only use a wire transfer service. Beware of e-mail correspondence from the "landlord" that's written in poor or broken English.

Research the average

rental rates in that area and be suspicious if the rate is significantly lower.

Don't give out personal information such as social security, bank account or credit card numbers.

If you suspect a scam, have already been victimized, or know someone who has fallen victim to a scam, please report it to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center.

Omni Hotels Offer 'Recessionistas' a Weekend of Intensive Retail Therapy

Girlfriends can Enjoy a Spirited and Savvy Shopping Weekend at the Luxury Hotel Brand

(NDG Wire) Fashionistas no longer need to worry about suffering from symptoms of withdrawal. If the economy is making your head spin, or worse, robbing you of beauty sleep, then a rejuvenating weekend getaway with the girls with some retail rehab is just what the doctor ordered. Omni Hotels is now offering "Retail Therapy," a package created just for girlfriends looking for a lit-

tle fun, a lot of smart shopping and loads of time together.

From bargains to boutiques, women can spoil themselves with a prescription for rest and relaxation. In advance of their visit, the "Retail Therapist" (aka the concierge) will contact the guests to help customize their experience, from arranging spa treatments for the group to reservations at local hot

spots. Upon check in, guests will also receive a recommended shopping list of local boutiques, the top shopping destinations and other favorite finds to help them shop like a native.

To start their shopping spree, ladies will be given a stylish "Amazonia" EnviroSax, a reusable shopping bag that will add color and eco-chic to the trip. Girlfriends will also be

treated to a full-size Laura Mercier lipstick to add a little fresh glamour to the experience. In a down economy, many women find themselves splurging on a small, affordable luxury item such as lipstick. In the evening, special delivery of champagne will be delivered to the guests' rooms, to help celebrate their time together.

"One of the absolute greatest ways to truly

recharge is a trip with your good girlfriends," said Caryn Kboudi, vice president of corporate communications for Omni Hotels. "We want women to be able to set their worries aside and feel a little spoiled. A weekend filled with great memories, funny stories and a few

new finds - now that's successful therapy!"

The Retail Therapy package is available on weekends through December 31, 2010, and prices start at \$175 per night.

For more information call 1-800-THE-OMNI or go to omnihotels.com.

Tips for Cleaning Hot Tools ProSilk offers tips on how to keep your styling tools in good condition

(NDG Wire) Does your flat iron have a grimy layer of excess product, hair color, hairspray or other sticky finishing products? Debris on a flat iron will cause hot spots on the plates and snags that can pull and break hair, causing ragged split ends.

Clean tools last longer and work more efficiently. Following a simple cleaning regimen will protect your professional styling tools and yield better styling results.

Cleaning Supplies
Cotton balls
Wooden cuticle stick
Soft clothe
Dish soap
Warm water

Rubbing alcohol

Cleaning Instructions

Prepare a small dish of warm soapy water (a drop or two of common liquid dish soap).

Unplug tools (never immerse any electric tool in water, plugged or unplugged).

Proceed to clean tools while they are still warm. It will be easier to clean excess product before the iron has had time to cool, dry and solidify.

Dip the edge of your cotton ball in the soapy water solution and rub the plates or surfaces in a circular motion to distribute the warm water evenly on the build-up. Wait for a few

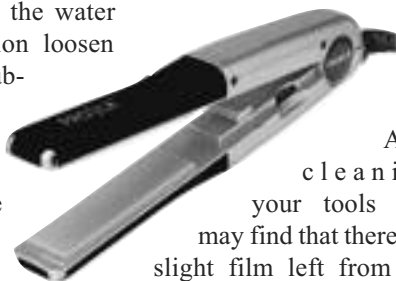
minutes and let the water and soap solution loosen and dislodge stubborn build-up.

While you are waiting, carefully take the wooden cuticle stick and gently remove particles that have been packed into grooves and crevices of the tool. Do not force or jam the stick into any openings, as it may cause damage to the tool.

NOTE: Do not submerge tools in water.

Do not use abrasive cleaners, as it will scratch and damage the surface.

Do not use metal or sharp utensils.



After cleaning your tools you may find that there is a slight film left from the water and soap solution. Take a cotton ball and a tiny amount of rubbing alcohol, wipe the film off the surface and finish it with a swipe of the soft cotton cloth.

Following these simple tips will protect your tools and improve your finished styles.

For more information on ProSilk, visit them online at www.prosilkprod.com or call 866.434.8100.

ATTENTION!!!
Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce

Meeting: Thursday, September 10, 2009

**Location: McKinney Public Library
101 E. Hunt St.
McKinney, TX 75069**

Time: 6:30 p.m.

If Interested In Joining

**Contact: ccbccsecretary@yahoo.com
469-424-0120 ext. 703
866-377-4002 (toll free)**

New Blog to Focus on Putting Texans Back to Work

BY RUTH FERGUSON
NDG EDITOR

The Texas Workforce Commission Chairman recently launched a new blog - Texas2Work.com - in what they stated was "the first step in a wider program to communicate information on the economy." The blog has been surprisingly active, with nearly daily postings.

"Our office is committed to openness, transparency and authentic dialogue with the people we serve," said Tom Pauken, chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). "This new blog will allow us to share important information in real time with the public and the media. Economic conditions can change on a daily basis. If we are going to keep people informed, we need a tool

that can keep pace with the speed of events."

Although the announced intention stated a focus on helping Texas job-seekers, employers and the public on job related topics, they have branched out. Recent topics have offered an analysis of the unemployment numbers - both nationally and in Texas, with the chairman questioning the validity of the slight decline in numbers in July. Also, posts have offering opinions on healthcare reform, homeowner debt, debated the success of the federal stimulus package.

There is an unmistakable conservative perspective to the postings. Visitors will have to determine if this is the type of information and point of view they are seeking from TWC.

Visitors can sign up for RSS feeds and request email notification of new posts. TWC is promising future additional features to include resources for employers and job seekers.

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The PLAN Fund is hosting the business training class "Business Basics for Entrepreneurs." This class combines financial management and other key business concepts, such as Marketing, Forecasting, Cash Flow, Pricing, and Business Planning. Upon completion of the training class, attendees

are eligible for Continuing Education credit from Dallas County Community College.

The class is scheduled for September 26, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 2801 Swiss Ave. Suite 120, Dallas. The cost is \$45 and registration is available online at www.planfund.org or call 214-942-6698.

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September 19, 7 pm
You're invited as our Theater & Arts Ministry presents the story of "Ruth" @ Story Elementary school in Allen. Witness the special care which God's plan for redemption is revealed through love and family.

September 26, 10 am
Join us for our Founder's Day activities with family fun, food and games at 200 Belmont Drive in Allen. Call the church for details.

September 27, 2009
8:15 and 10:45 am
You're invited to Harvest Sunday as we worship and praise God; and bring someone with you.

Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr.
M.Div., Senior Pastor
305 N. Alder Drive in

Allen for Sunday Morning Worship
Church Address is
200 Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

September 12, 8 am

Join us for our Women in Red Prayer Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

September 20, 6 pm
Come and enjoy our Angelic Choir Concert in the Sanctuary.

Dr. Gregory Foster,
Senior Pastor
Rev. Anthony Foster
Pastor
300 Phillips Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-235-4235

GREENVILLE AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 12,
8 am - 2 pm

In conjunction with Southwestern Christian College Bower Women's Association we are hosting a FREE College Prep Workshop - "Wisdom & Knowledge." It's designed to prepare students in grades 8-12 for post-secondary education. There will be representatives from Southwestern Christian College, Tuskegee University, Abilene Christian College, Grambling State University, Howard

University, Mississippi Valley State University, Richland College and more.

A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided; as well as door prizes. Call the church for details or just come.
Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
Senior Pastor
1010-1020 S. Sherman St.
Richardson, TX 75081
972-437-3493

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

September 11, 7:30 pm
Our Theatre Arts, Music & Dance Ministries present: Poetry & Praise. "An Evening of Poetry, Storytelling, Dance & Song Under the Stars," @ the Oak Point Amphitheater, 2801 E. Spring Creek Pkwy in Plano. Call our bookstore for details, to register and for ticket prices.

September 12, 2-6 pm
Come to help us celebrate 20 years of God's Grace with, "Our Amazing Race... Changing the World for Christ." Founders' Day Events include our picnic on Saturday @ Churchill Park, 7001 Churchill Way, Dallas, TX 75230

September 19, 6 pm
Our concert will be @ the Special Events Center-Garland, 4999 Naaman Forest Blvd, Garland, TX

75040

September 20, 9:30am
The conclusion is our Founders' Day Worship Service with Pastor Gary Frost from Youngstown, OH, also @ the Special Events Center-Garland.
Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
Senior Pastor
1010-1020 S. Sherman St.
Richardson, TX 75081
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PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH

September 19,
4 pm & 20, 5 pm

You don't want to miss our presentation of The Tribe of Judah, a 10 Year Anniversary Celebration Concert with the renowned Micah Stampley at the Fellowship Dallas Worship Center, 9330 N. Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75231, and a Dance Gala featuring Dance Ministries from around the Metroplex at the church. Call 214-724-1789 or 214-893-1841 for ticket price and other information.

Dr. Curtis W. Wallace,
Senior Pastor
1819 N. Washington Ave.
Dallas, TX 75204
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September 2009

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Rev. Charles Wattle
Senior Pastor
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September 13, 8 am
& 11 am

You're invited to our Pastor's Anniversary Services as we praise and worship God for our leader.

Dr. Isiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
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September 6, 10:30 am
Join us this Sunday for our infants that will be christened and our toddler's baptism.

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Senior Pastor
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10:45AM Story Elementary
10:50 Fellowship - Allen, TX

Wednesday Night Live
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7:00 PM
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Pastors Sam & Gloria Fenceroy



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7:15 pm

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Hear Pastor Sam on: "Truth Made Simple"
KGGK 1040 AM, Monday - Friday @ 5:25 pm - 5:30 pm



I finally decided to be loyal to God, true and dedicated with all my heart. Sin and bad habits I want to break, no more than five, a piece of cake.

I took a hard look at the person within; I found more than five problems in sin. The longer I looked the more I found my shame and embarrassment, overwhelmed. I was a good girl by nature turned bad girl by sin, suffering in the misery of the life that I'm in.

I made a mental list of all my problems to fix; the easy tasks first save the tough for last. The demons of my past haunt me in temptation; I struggle to fight against the dark life of Satan. I never dreamed this person could be me, where is the good girl that others claim to see?

The truth in my facts as I rummage thru my trash, proved failure after failure scattered in my past. Many bad habits too terrible for me to say became the way of life for me in my everyday.

My list is down to three, the toughest of them all. God is very proud of me even when I fall. I have been so close to God's golden sunshine, I felt his warm loving touch for the very first time.

I Give Myself To God

A peace so clam that my spirit grew strong. The presence of my Lord has been gone too long. Just a little taste of what he wants for me. My first time moment happy as can be.

Let It Shine: The soul of a child has a bright shining light. The light of sweet Jesus un-tarnished by fright; the soul of a child so pure and innocent. The sins of our world, a child knows not.

The light of sweet Jesus shines through their smile. The warmth of His love brings them joy and laughter.

The light shines bright in a spirit of happiness, where love and security is the foundation of home. The light shines bright in the pit of their soul where nothing is ugly in a picture-perfect world.

A fairy tale life and living a dream is reality come true in the heart of the innocence, where all children live. The soul of a child with love and protection will bloom in the light by God's delicate perfection. The light shines bright in God's beautiful garden where the seed of His children soaks in full rays of sunshine. He gives love and affection with plenty of nutrition to every seed He planted.

The light shines bright with special care that was

prepared and delivered straight from God's golden kingdom of Heaven. A glow of innocence in the eyes of a child can calm the madness in a beast gone wild.

Two Editor's Choice Awards by author Mary Jane Dixon Metzler, Copyright © 2007.

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father Who Art In Heaven – Please align my thinking and expand my understanding as I seek connection with you first before everything else. **Hallowed By Thy Name** – I praise and honor Thee by the way I love and treat Your creations. Through Your Grace I experience Your wholeness and perfection. **Thy Kingdom Come Thy Will Be Done** – May Your divine order be accepted and practiced throughout the world. **On Earth As It Is In Heaven** – May I awake to Your direction and Your divine wisdom that You have placed in me. **Thank You This Day Our Daily Bread** – I give thanks and glory for Your guidance, all of my needs and divine desires. **Forgive Us Our Trespasses As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us.** – Help me to forgive others for mistakes they make in life so that I may be forgiven. **Lead Us Not Into Temptation But**

Deliver Us From Evil – Lift me over times of challenge and despair. Steady and strengthen me so that I cause no harm to others or myself.

For Yours Is The Kingdom, The Power and The Glory – I accept Your glorious Kingdom. I feel Your power. I demonstrate Your glory by

shining my light as I experience joy and oneness with You. Amen. Author Unknown and Revised.

WFAA Anchor Emcee for Humanitarian Hands Foundation Gala

On Thursday, October 22 Humanitarian Hands Foundation will host its fund-raising gala entitled, "Life Is".

Debbie Denmon of WFAA will emcee the program and music will be provided by The Richard Davis Trio. The evening will also include dinner and a silent auction. Tickets are \$75 and various sponsorship levels are available.

The semi-formal event

will take place at 7 p.m. at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel located at 2222 Stemmons Freeway.

For more information, to make a donation or to purchase tickets online, visit www.humanitarian-handsfoundation.com or contact Mary Christopher at 972.331.6098.

Humanitarian Hands is a non-profit [501(c)3] organization, devoted to developing Africa from the inside out. Funds

raised from this event will support efforts to build the "Ray of Hope" orphanage in Uganda.



Debbie Denmon

North Texas Award Winning Barbershop Headed to TV Screen

(NDG Wire) The Fade Shop of Dallas, has been chosen by 44 Blue Productions for The Style Network to film a episode of their hit reality show *Split Ends*. The show will air Saturday September 5, 2009 at 6/7am cst and 9/8 pm cst. on The Style Network. For scheduling

information log onto www.mystyle.com/mystyle/shows/splitends/schedule/index.jsp.

Actor/Comedian Steve Harvey has also recognized the shop nationally for winning Best Barbershop in the 6th Annual Hoodie Awards (www.steveharvey.com/hoodie

ieawards) as well as winning Best Barbershop in the Ford Urban "Flex Your Style" Barbershop Competition winning the grand prize of a new 2009 Ford Flex www.fordurban.com/flexyourstyle.

The Fade Shop was a materialized dream of Ozell Graham in 1996.



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

Avenue F Church of Christ

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972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

Early Sunday Morning8:00 am
Sunday Bible Class9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship10:45 am
Evening Worship3:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class7:00 pm

Radio Program @ 7:30 am on
KHVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings



Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

Friendship Baptist Church

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(972) 625-8186

website: www.fbc-online.net

Schedule of Services:

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Sunday School Classes-9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday
Early Bird Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
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Study - 7:30 p.m.

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Wednesday Bible Study ... 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm

Office Hours

Monday & Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday ... 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday Closed

Contact Info:

Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church
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Want to give your home a facelift without spending a fortune?

(NDG Wire) In the current economic climate, home-owners are looking for ways to fix up their current home versus upgrading to a newer property. Consumer ratings service Angie's List talked to home improvement experts nationwide to find three cheaper alternatives to big budget projects.

Big bucks project: New bathtub

Small bucks fix: Reglaze the old tub.

An old, worn out bathtub can make any bathroom look dull and dated. But the cost of a new bathtub can

start anywhere from \$200 to \$600, and some tubs can cost thousands, depending on the size and features, such as jets. Replacing a bathtub usually involves more than just buying a new tub. You may have to move or replace plumbing.

Consider a less expensive option, such as reglazing the bathtub - a new enamel finish in a color you choose. Price typically ranges from \$300-\$600, and you don't have to factor in the expense of ripping out the old tub.

Big bucks project: New kitchen or bathroom cabinets

nets

Small bucks fix: Cabinet re-facing

Looking for a new, fresh look for your kitchen, but can't afford a total remodel? Consider re-facing your cabinets. That way you can re-work an already adequate kitchen/bath with a facelift, without interrupting your busy life.

Re-facing consists of installing new cabinet doors and drawer fronts, and covering the exposed frames of the cabinets with new matching wood or plastic veneer. No cabinets are ripped out, and the layout re-

mains the same. Add some new hardware, and your kitchen has a new look. Cabinet re-facing typically costs 25-30 percent less than replacing existing cabinets. Most companies price per unit (count each door, drawer, etc. as a unit). Price per unit can range as low as \$100 to as high as \$250, depending on materials.

Big bucks project: New deck

Small bucks fix: Clean and seal

A deck will last up to 20 years if you take care of it. Considering it costs anywhere from \$10-20 a square

foot to build a new deck, a little maintenance is the best bang for your buck.

Decks take a good amount of beating from the weather and catch a lot of dirt, grime and mold. A good cleaning once a year with a pressure washer will keep the deck looking nice, and is

also essential before sealing or staining. After a thorough cleaning, seal the deck or the wood will splinter, crack and warp. Finally, keep the deck free from debris build-up between boards. This area collects moisture and can cause dry rot.

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